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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Serial No.: 09/063,289 Group No.: 2176
Filed: April 21, 1998 Examiner: W. Bashore
For: System And Method For Accessing And Manipulating
Time-Based Data
Inventor: Rejean Gagne
Docket No.: A1998034

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-entitled patent application is a Reply to the Final Office Action mailed June 14, 2002 and Notice of Appeal.

Please charge **Deposit Account No. 50-0876** in the amount of **\$320.00** for the Appeal. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said Deposit Account No. 50-0876 for any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment. A duplicate copy of the sheet is enclosed.

Dated: September 13, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

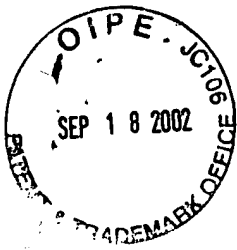
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Dated: September 13, 2002

Peter J. Gordon
Registration No. 35,164



#18 (NS)
9/24/02

REPLY AFTER FINAL

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO: A1998034

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rejean Gagne
Serial No: 09/063,289
Filed: April 21, 1998
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACCESSING AND MANIPULATING TIME-BASED DATA

Examiner: W. Bashore
Art Unit: 2176

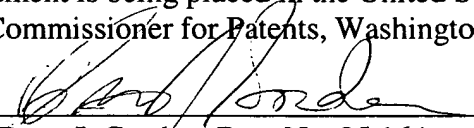
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Peter J. Gordon, Reg. No. 35,164

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY AFTER FINAL

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 14, 2002, the Applicant submits this reply. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-11 remain in the application of which claims 1, 4 and 11 are independent.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Boezeman and Hamakawa. The rejection is respectfully traversed. The substance of the rejection is identical to the prior Office Action.

Remarks made by the Applicant in the prior Reply and that are not repeated here are nonetheless incorporated by reference.

OK TO ENTER USPTO 9/14/2002

Boezeman teaches, in the portions cited by the Examiner, an interface in which objects may be arranged in time on a timeline. Boezeman does not teach, as noted by the Examiner, that objects are re-mapped to a global time line subsequent to repositioning of a meta-object, or that meta-clip objects are incorporated into a list of available resources.

Hamakawa teaches, in the portions cited by the Examiner, an object hierarchy (Figs. 3-4; p. 274, cols. 1-2) to combine multimedia objects into a composition. Hamakawa teaches that sequencing of objects is accomplished by an SEBox Object, which defines *only relative* locations in a sequence in time among objects operated on by the SEBox Object (p. 274, col. 2). Objects that are intended to be simultaneous are combined by an Overlay Object (p. 275, Col. 1). A Position Object may place an object on a specific section of an absolute time scale (p. 275, Col.1).

The Examiner asserts that Boezeman would be modified according to the teachings of Hamakawa to result in a system that meets the claim limitations that objects are re-mapped to a global time line subsequent to repositioning of a meta-object, or that meta-clip objects are incorporated into a list of available resources.

The rejection is based on Hamakawa's statements that a timeline model is insufficient and Hamakawa's proposal for overcoming those deficiencies. The Examiner proposed combining Hamakawa's solution to problems with timelines to a system with timelines (Boezeman). Hamakawa suggests no such thing. Instead of modifying a timeline, Hamakawa proposes a completely new system with "three features in the proposed model that differentiate it from the timeline model." Hamakawa neither teaches nor suggests that these features may be used in a timeline system and uses them to differentiate from a timeline based system. In fact, at the bottom of p. 277, Hamakawa states: "This facility encourages the user to revise and reuse previously constructed composite multimedia objects because it eliminates the need for precise timeline locations." Accordingly, there is neither evidentiary nor factual basis for the conclusion that one would have been motivated by Hamakawa to *combine* the teachings of Hamakawa with those of Boezeman. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-11 is traversed.

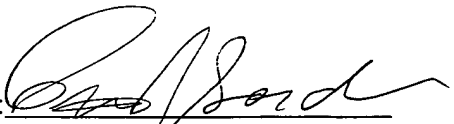
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0876.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Date: September 13, 2002
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